

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, of which claims 6-9 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5 have been rejected. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled. New claims 9-13 have been added.

- I. Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.***

The Examiner states that claims 1 and 5 recite phrases that do not convey a clear meaning, i.e., "...a composition suited to characteristics of the circuit element pattern,"; "a layer portion.....serviceable as a main body" and "being formed as distributed on the layer portion." It appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 1-5, not 1-4.

Accordingly, claims 1-5 have been cancelled and replaced with newly-added claims 9-13. Thus, the 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

- II. Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,509,687), hereinafter "Natarajan et al."***

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner takes the position that **Natarajan et al.** meets all of the limitations of the present claims. The Examiner states that Fig. 6A shows a plurality of strip portions (92) formed by

the holes in the ceramic magnetic layer, on the second ceramic layer (64, 92) that are approximately uniformly distributed inside the layer portion.

Anticipation under 35 USC § 102 (e) requires that a single prior art reference teach each and every element of the claimed invention.

Natarajan et al. discloses a magnetic-ceramic laminate having at least one through-hole that traverse the full thickness of the laminate (see col. 6, lines 35-36, col. 9, lines 35-38). Natarajan et al. discloses a composite including a metal sheet 21 having holes, a dielectric layer 31 and a magnetic layer 33 together forming sub-laminate structure 40 having through-holes 42. See col. 9. Natarajan et al. discloses forming laminate 50 including at least two unsintered metal/ferrite laminate magnets 40.

Natarajan et al. further discloses at col. 10 and in Figs. 6 and 7, forming electrodes in a top and/or bottom surface of sintered laminate 65 by chemically etching metal sheets 61 and 63, to form circuit elements 91 and 93 thereby forming magnet plate 90.

Regarding the Examiner's statement that Natarajan et al. discloses a plurality of strip portions formed by holes in the magnetic layer, we disagree and instead assert that the holes do not form strip portions as defined by the present specification. The holes of Natarajan et al. do not result in separate, discrete, portions of the magnetic layer. Rather, the magnetic layer of Natarajan et al. is continuous.

Figs. 6A and 6B of Natarajan et al. shows that the magnetic layer 92 merely has a plurality of holes therein, and is different from the discontinuous portions of the present invention. That is,

the magnetic layer 92 of Natarajan et al. is not “distributed” in the dielectric layer 64 or on a surface thereof.

The present specification and drawings convey that the term “strip portions” means discrete, discontinuous portions of material. Newly-added claims 9-13 replace the term “strip portions” with the term “discrete portions.”

Natarajan et al. does not disclose a layer comprising a second material dispersed within a first material to form a second layer. Natarajan et al. also does not disclose providing a second material in discrete portions on a second layer comprising a first material.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 9-13 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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